GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3546
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN RURAL AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated comprehensive action plan for developing telecommunication in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for inefficient and ineffective telecommunication facilities in rural areas in Maharashtra particularly in western part of Maharashtra and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen , expand and upgrade communication in rural areas of the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. As per the objectives of 9th Plan and NTP-1999 (National Telecom. Policy - 1999), telephones will be provided on demand in all the rural and urban areas progressively by the year 2002. Opening of new telephone exchanges and expansion of the existing exchanges have been planned to achieve this objective. During the year 2000-2001, it has been planned to open about 800 new exchanges and provide 1.5 lakh DELs in the rural areas of Maharashtra Circle.

c) The telecommunication facilities available in the rural areas in Maharashtra including the Western part are generally satisfactory. However, due to the presence of ghat sections , backwater streams etc. there are some areas which are inaccessible. Following activities are planned in the rural areas to strengthen the Telecom. Network:-

1. Set up about 800 new rural exchanges in Maharashtra Circle.

2. Provide reliable transmission media in all the rural telephone exchanges by the year 2002.

3. Introduce new technology WLL rural system to replace existing MARR VPTs and to meet the scattered telephone demand.

4. To install and commission more and more RSU type equipments instead of SBM equipments.